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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-third session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Ms. Hélène Petit (France)

Addendum

Coordination questions: New Partnership for Africa's Development

(Item 4 (b))

United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

1. At its 12th meeting, on 12 June 2013, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (E/AC.51/2013/6).
2. The Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa introduced the report and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. In view of the ongoing health situation of President Nelson Mandela, all delegations acknowledged the President's significant lifelong contribution to South Africa and humanity, and expressed their wishes for his speedy recovery.
4. Delegations commended the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa for the comprehensiveness of the report. Moreover, they welcomed and expressed support for the work of the Office, in particular its role as coordinator of United Nations system support for NEPAD.
5. Delegations reaffirmed the priority of Africa in the global agenda and reiterated the importance of stepping up coordinated United Nations system support



for all sectoral priorities of the Organization's work on Africa. They observed some decline in the financial and staff resources devoted to Africa by some United Nations system entities. Some delegations expressed the need to align United Nations system support budget planning with the national and regional priorities of the African continent.

6. Delegations emphasized the need to continue to strengthen coherence within the United Nations system in support of Africa's development, in particular with respect to the ongoing consultations on the post-2015 development agenda. In that regard, some delegations emphasized the need to closely coordinate that process with the sustainable development goals, as mandated by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), to ensure the continuation of United Nations support for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular poverty eradication and health, and to ensure that sustainable development was central in the post-2015 development agenda.

7. While appreciating the significant achievements in economic, social and political issues, some delegations underscored that the post-2015 development agenda should take due consideration of the economic development challenges facing Africa, including emerging challenges such as climate change, the global financial and economic crisis, the food crisis and commodity price volatility.

8. Delegations emphasized the need to align the post-2015 development agenda with the priorities of Africa, as articulated in the recently adopted African Union Commission Strategic Plan 2014-2017. Delegations also emphasized that the post-2015 development agenda should build on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals and focus on structural transformation and inclusive growth, innovation and education, and human and social development.

9. Some delegations stressed the importance of the nexus between peace, security and development, and welcomed the increasing partnerships in support of Africa's development, including the TICAD (Tokyo International Conference on African Development) process, the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and other bilateral strategic partnerships with Africa. In that regard, some delegations emphasized the need to strengthen the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa with adequate resources to enable it to effectively coordinate all the multilateral initiatives in support of Africa's development and to provide better support for the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency in the implementation of its priority areas, notably agriculture, through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, infrastructure development, through the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, market access and trade facilitation, human and social development, and science and technology.

10. Delegations expressed support for United Nations monitoring of the Regional Coordination Mechanism, in particular on progress achieved in the implementation of the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union. Some delegations supported the call for a joint United Nations/African Union resource mobilization strategy and the creation of a trust fund to facilitate the implementation and coordination of activities of the business plans of the clusters within the Regional Coordination Mechanism. Delegations encouraged the various clusters to share more information among and between one another, to set up baselines and realistic targets and to show greater willingness and readiness to engage with one another.

11. Delegations emphasized the need to better mainstream the cross-cutting issues of the Regional Coordination Mechanism in the work of relevant clusters, thereby enabling the Mechanism more effectively to provide the necessary technical support to the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and the regional economic communities, and to better facilitate the implementation of the multisectoral capacity-building programmes.

12. Delegations expressed the view that Africa's transition towards a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication should be viewed within the implementation of the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference.

13. Delegations expressed their appreciation for the analysis given in paragraph 105 of the report, summarizing the challenges and constraints in the areas under consideration.

Conclusions and recommendations

14. **The Committee welcomed the annual report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for NEPAD (E/AC.51/2013/6) and recommended that the General Assembly endorse the conclusions and recommendations contained in paragraphs 106 to 114 of the report.**

15. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to include, in his future reports, detailed information related to the possible outcomes of the achievements of NEPAD targets.**

16. **The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly reiterate its request to the organizations of the United Nations system to continue to promote greater coherence in their work in support of NEPAD, on the basis of the agreed clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism in Africa, and called upon the United Nations system to continue to mainstream the special needs of Africa in all of its normative and operational activities, including the financing of programmes and projects, resource mobilization and humanitarian assistance.**

17. **The Committee further recommended that the General Assembly request the organizations of the United Nations system to continue to coordinate closely with the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, as the technical body of the African Union, and other structures of the African Union Commission and the Partnership in order to further strengthen the implementation of the African Union/NEPAD African Action Plan 2010-2015.**

18. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly emphasize the need for the organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental bodies to continue to fully take into account the views, comments and/or input of the African Union and other regional mechanisms in their policy formulation and decision-making, including in the areas of mediation, political affairs and peace and security.**

19. **The Committee reiterated its recommendation that the reports of the Secretary-General on NEPAD include information not only on seminars, workshops and meetings but also on other tangible actions and results in respect of United Nations system support for projects of the Partnership**

throughout the African continent, while stressing that future reports should further enhance the focus on the impact, in both quantitative and qualitative terms, of the activities implemented by entities of the United Nations system in support of the Partnership, with respect to the resources.

20. The Committee recognized the important role played by the development of hard infrastructure in Africa, in particular the railroads and highways, and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts in mobilizing United Nations system support in that area, in particular for the initiatives of the regional economic communities.
